

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

REC'D 05 JUL 2005

WIPO

PCT

Applicant's or agent's file reference HELLER	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/AU2004/000059	International filing date (day/month/year) 19 January 2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 21 March 2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC Int. Cl. ⁷ B09B 3/00, B09C 1/02, C02F 11/00, C05F 7/00		
Applicant AUSTRALIAN ORGANIC RESOURCES PTY LTD et al		

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of **3** sheets, including this cover sheet.
3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:
 - a. ☐ (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of sheets, as follows:
 - ☐ sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).
 - ☐ sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.
 - b. ☐ (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing and/or table related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).
4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I	Basis of the report
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II	Priority
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI	Certain documents cited
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 21 June 2004	Date of completion of the report 24 June 2005
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaustalia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929	Authorized Officer B. PREMARTNE Telephone No. (02) 6283 2407

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.
PCT/AU2004/000059

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:

☐ international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1 (b))

☐ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)

☐ international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:

☒ the international application as originally filed/furnished

☐ the description:

pages as originally filed/furnished

pages* received by this Authority on with the letter of

pages* received by this Authority on with the letter of

☐ the claims:

pages as originally filed/furnished

pages* as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19

pages* received by this Authority on with the letter of

pages* received by this Authority on with the letter of

☐ the drawings:

pages as originally filed/furnished

pages* received by this Authority on with the letter of

pages* received by this Authority on with the letter of

☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

☐ the description, pages

☐ the claims, Nos.

☐ the drawings, sheets/figs

☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):

☐ any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*):

4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

☐ the description, pages

☐ the claims, Nos.

☐ the drawings, sheets/figs

☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):

☐ any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*):

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims 1 - 8	YES
	Claims	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 6 - 8	YES
	Claims 1 - 5, 7	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1 - 8	YES
	Claims	NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

The most relevant document relating to novelty and inventive step appears to be D1 = GB 2113199

D1 discloses a process for detoxification of industrial wastes while recovering valuable heavy metals. It also produces a product that can be used for soil improvement in agriculture. The method comprises the steps;

- a) treating a slurry of waste material in water having a solid material content of 100 Kg/ m³ with sulphuric acid;
- b) separating the solution containing the heavy metal salts;
- c) mixing the solids from the separating step with more acid and separating the solid and liquid phases;
- d) recycling the liquid phase back to the first acid treatment stage;
- e) neutralising the solid phase with slaked lime;
- f) precipitating the heavy metals from the solution from step b) using slaked lime;
- g) separating the precipitate of heavy metal salts.

Thus D1 discloses all the features of claims 1-5 and 7 except the feature of recycling the liquid phase after separation of the precipitated heavy metal salts.

One of the problems the present invention attempts to solve is to keep the process cost to a minimum and one way of doing this is by recycling. Thus it would be obvious to a person skilled in the art to recycle the liquor resulting from the separation of the heavy metal salt precipitates. Also, recycling to preserve water and valuable chemicals is well known in the art. Therefore although, novelty can be acknowledged to the claims 1-5 and 7 inventive step cannot be acknowledged.